

conventions were grafted on these, and produced the great mass of usages within which our lives are passed. That which is artistic is the highest form of conventional refinement. Realism antagonizes and breaks through all these conventions and taboos, which are always a strain upon those who are not brought up in them from infancy. Therefore we hear demands for realism and naturalness from those who weary of the strain and do not want to submit to it. The conventionalities define respectability, and respectability has always been sneered at. In all comedy it is made ridiculous. The husband was possessed of conventional rights in which he was protected by society so that he had a secured and uneventful status. In comedy his rights have been violated and his security has been broken. The crowd has always enjoyed this. It rejoiced to see the wife deceive the husband, and the adulterer fool him. The latter represented freedom and cleverness at war with philistinism. On the other hand, all the taboos and conventions which have penetrated the masses and become familiar to them from infancy are fiercely defended by them (e.g. female dress and the taboo on man's dress for females). The popular magazines and the "great moral shows" religiously respect the standards of the crowd. That which is broad is funny, but there is always a limit of toleration. What is prudish, puritanical, fastidious, affected, pharisaical, etc.? These adjectives are in use, and they apply to things which are beyond a line which is 'undefined' and indefinable.- It depends on the codes and standards 'of the group. Realism presents everyday experience, no humbug, the world as it is. It must, therefore, be cynical and ruthless to all conventions. It

shows the mean-  
ness of greatness, the other side of virtue, the  
weakness of  
heroes. No doubt it is great fun to pour scorn  
and ridicule on  
all who assume to be better than we are, and to  
look down on us.  
The easiest way to do it is to show up their  
weaknesses, follies,  
and sins. Here is another task for the satirists.  
Satire in  
comedy may be a gratification of envy. The role of  
Pierrot is  
dangerous to him who exercises it. In fact no man  
is fit for it.  
Where does any one get a charter to be censor of  
all the rest ?  
"He will certainly • become proud, arrogant, self-  
seeking, and